

BOOK REVIEW: THE FLORA OF CAPE COD

Svenson, Henry K. & Robert W. Pyle. *The Flora of Cape Cod*, An annotated list of the Ferns and Flowering Plants of Barnstable County, Massachusetts. v + 139 pp. 1979. The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Brewster, Massachusetts. (Price \$4.95)

This catalog of species constitutes an authoritative checklist of the flora of Barnstable County; Cape Cod and Barnstable County are identical geographic areas. It represents extensive coverage for a region that has lacked adequate treatment for too long a time. John M. Fogg Jr.'s "Flora of the Elizabeth Islands" (*Rhodora* 32, 1930), Frank C. MacKeever's "Plants of Nantucket" (University of Massachusetts Press, 1968) and other lists from the area have preceded this catalog of species, but none of these overlaps it except in a general way, and the floras of adjacent areas are by no means identical with that of Cape Cod.

Not only will this annotated list serve as a foundation for other botanists and naturalists to build on and perhaps add to, but also on a land mass suffering a double attack by sea and by man it can serve as an historical document listing many plants whose days on this particular land form must surely be numbered.

The plant families, genera and species are listed as in M. L. Fernald's *Gray's Manual of Botany*, 8th edition, 1950, and where there are common or colloquial names these are given also, followed by a brief statement of habitat, frequency, and often locality. There is a complete index to the Latin names and a somewhat shorter index to colloquial names, since some plants lack common names. Only those plants growing without benefit of cultivation are listed in this checklist. The authors used the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club, other herbaria, and their own knowledge of the Cape flora in assembling this list.

I find this flora a welcome and useful addition to the botanical literature of New England. It is a very complete listing, including some 1500 plant species and varieties. The two authors with their long experience in botanical work and in botanizing on Cape Cod are eminently qualified to produce such a flora. It is a well made book with durable flexible covers and sewn-bound signatures, something usually found only in hard-cover books; it should stand

up to hard use in the field. I am grateful for this extremely well done flora; I wish only that it had appeared years ago.

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